

The Odyssey Intro

Pgs. 740-749



*** Information is not always listed in the order in which you read it in the book.

The person credited with telling the stories of the Trojan War and its aftermath is

_____.

Troy was also called: _____

The Greeks were also called _____ or _____

Summary of information about the *Iliad*

A _____ year war fought _____.

This is the model story for the epic of _____.

It is set in the _____ year of the war between the Trojans and Spartans.

Summary of Information about the *Odyssey*

The story of a Greek soldier _____ who wants to get home after the Trojan War.

This is the model story for the epic of _____.

Terms to Know:

Epic: _____

Myth: _____

Alter Ego: _____

Rhapsodes: _____

Homeric/heroic similes: _____

About Odysseus

He is a hero _____.

His story is melancholy and has a feeling of postwar _____.

He has a family: _____

He is from _____

Themes in the *Odyssey*

1) The world is full of violence as evidence by examples from the story: _____

2) People are searching for the right _____ with one another and with the people around them.

3) People want to find their _____ places in life.

USE THE REST OF THIS SHEET BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Odyssey Reading Guide – 9 English

“Tell the Story” pg. 751

- 1) Who are the Muses?
- 2) What is an “invocation to the muse?”
- 3) Homer gives his listeners “hints” about the story in this opening. What literary term is that?
- 4) Whose epithet is “he who moves all day through heaven?” (line 14)
- 5) Whose epithet is “daughter of Zeus?” (line 16)
- 6) Whose epithet is “ladyship?” (line 21)

“Part One: The Wanderings” pg. 752-786

“Calypso, The Sweet Nymph” pgs. 752-754

- 7) What are Books 1-4 about?
- 8) How long has Odysseus been trying to get home?
- 9) When we meet Odysseus in Book 5, who is Odysseus a prisoner of?
- 10) How long has he been a “prisoner” here?
- 11) Whose epithet is “Wayfinder?” (line 33)
- 12) What is the epic simile found on pg. 752?
- 13) Whose epithet is “Son of Laertes” or “versatile” or “strategist” (line 101 & 112)
- 14) What is the epic simile on pg. 754?

“I am Laertes’ Son” pgs. 756-758

& 771 “Welcome: A Religious Duty”

- 15) From pg. 771: Describe how the ancient Greeks treated guests and why.
- 16) After leaving the island of Calypso, whose island does he end up on next?
- 17) How is this part of the story connected to the reading on pg. 771?
- 18) Define “guile” and which character displays this trait?
- 19) Where is Odysseus from?
- 20) Whose epithets are “loveliest among goddesses” and “enchantress?”
- 21) What does Odysseus want most? (lines 143-146)
- 22) What is the other name for Troy?
- 23) After he left Troy, what was the first place he came to and what happened there? (lines 150-173)
- 24) What two similes are found on pg. 757?
- 25) What is personified in line 188?
- 26) At the end of this section, what prevents Odysseus from getting back home?

“The Lotus Eaters” pg. 758

- 27) Describe the lotus eater people.
- 28) What did they offer Odysseus’ men?
- 29) What is the effect of eating the lotus?
- 30) How did Odysseus get his men safely off the island?

“The Cyclops” pgs. 760-770

- 31) Describe the Cyclops.
- 32) What sort of hospitality is shown by the Cyclops?
- 33) What sort of hospitality is shown by Odysseus and his men?
- 34) What lie does Odysseus tell the Cyclops about his ship?
- 35) Whose epithet is “who sets the earth atremble?” (line 763)
- 36) What three similes can you find on pg. 763?

- 37) Why didn't Odysseus kill the Cyclops after he fell asleep?
- 38) What is personified in line 204?
- 39) What was Odysseus' plan to defeat the Cyclops?
- 40) Why did Odysseus give the Cyclops wine?
- 41) What fake name does Odysseus call himself by?
- 42) What epic simile do you see on pg. 765?
- 43) What epic simile do you see on pg. 766?
- 44) What other simile do you see later on pg. 766?
- 45) Who is Polyphemus' father?
- 46) What is personified in line 417?
- 47) What is personified in line 433?
- 48) Why don't the other Cyclopes seek revenge on Odysseus?
- 49) How was Odysseus able to escape from the Cyclopes' den?
- 50) What does Odysseus steal from Cyclops?
- 51) How does Odysseus exhibit hubris at the end of this section?
- 52) Whose epithets are "raider of cities" and "Laerte's son?" (lines 504 & 505)
- 53) Whose epithet is "got of earthquake?" (line 518)
- 54) What prayer does Polyphemus send to Poseidon?
- 55) Whose epithet is "blue girdler of the islands?" (line 529)

"The Enchantress Circe" pgs. 773-774

- 56) Where does Odysseus land after the island of the Cyclops?
- 57) What favor does the wind king do for Odysseus?
- 58) Describe what happens when the men encounter the Laestrygonians.
- 59) Who lives on Aeaea?
- 60) What simile is found on pg. 773?
- 61) Why didn't Eurylochus go into Circe's home?
- 62) What did Circe give the men to eat and drink, and what happened to them next?
- 63) How is the Circe story similar to the Lotus Eaters story?
- 64) How was Odysseus able to resist Circe's spell?
- 65) Why do Odysseus and his men stay on Circe's island?
- 66) Since the men want to return home, what does Circe tell Odysseus to do?

"The Land of the Dead" pgs. 775-777

- 67) What place's epithet is "the cold homes of Death and pale Persephone?"
- 68) Explain who Teiresias is.
- 69) List all epithets you see for Teiresias on pgs. 775-777.
- 70) Whose epithets are "master of landways and seaways," "O man of woe," and "Great Captain?" (lines 611, 612, and 619)
- 71) Teiresias tells Odysseus that THIS god is seeking revenge. Who is it?
- 72) Whose epithet is "the god who thunders on the land?" (line 621)
- 73) What literary term is Teiresias' prophesy and example of?
- 74) What prophesy does Odysseus receive? (Summarize it – lines 618-658)

"The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis" pgs. 778-783

- 75) After visiting the Land of the Dead, where does Odysseus go?
- 76) What literary term is Circe's warning to Odysseus and example of?
- 77) How do the men avoid the Sirens?
- 78) Whose epithet is "the god who makes the earth tremble" on line 703?
- 79) Describe Scylla.
- 80) Describe Charybdis.

- 81) What simile do you see on pg. 780?
- 82) Whose epithet is “lord of high noon?” (line 744)
- 83) Whose epithet is “the monster of the gray rock?” (line 798)
- 84) Whose epithet is “dire gorge of the salt sea tide” (line 804/5)
- 85) What simile do you see on pg. 782?
- 86) What epic simile do you see on pg. 783?

“The Cattle of the Sun God” pgs. 784-786

- 87) What is the name of Helios’s island?
- 88) Helios is the god of what?
- 89) What is personified on line 849?
- 90) What were the men supposed to avoid on this island?
- 91) Because they did not avoid the obstacle, what happened to Odysseus and his men?
- 92) Where did Odysseus end up next?

“Part Two: Coming Home” pg. 790

- 1) How does Odysseus finally get home to Ithaca?
- 2) What advice does Athena give Odysseus?
- 3) Describe Eumaeus.
- 4) How does Eumaeus show hospitality?
- 5) How does Telemachus know it is time to come home to Ithaca?
- 6) What is happening at the Palace of Odysseus in Book 15?
- 7) What could possibly be the most dramatic moment in the epic that the narrator hints at on pg. 790?

“The Meeting of Father and Son” pgs. 791-794

- 1) What epic simile is on pg. 791?
- 2) Whose epithet is “light of my days?” (line 956)
- 3) What would you expect the relationship to be like between Telemachus and Eumaeus?
- 4) What is the REAL relationship like between Telemachus and Eumaeus?
- 5) How do Eumaeus and Telemachus follow the rules of hospitality?
- 6) How was Odysseus revealed to his son?
- 7) What simile is on pg. 794?

“The Beggar and the Faithful Dog” pgs. 794-796

- 1) What had the soothsayer told Penelope?
- 2) Who is the “beggar?”
- 3) Who is the “faithful dog?”
- 4) Who is Argos?
- 5) According to Eumaeus, what happens when servants are without a master?
- 6) What is ironic (difference between what characters know and the reader knows) about this scene?
- 7) How does Penelope show hospitality on pg. 796?
- 8) Do you see any of Odysseus’ hubris on pg. 796?
- 9) In Book 19, what does Penelope ask the nurse to do for the beggar?
- 10) How is the nurse able to recognize Odysseus?

“The Test of the Great Bow” pgs. 798-802

- 1) What “impossible task” does Penelope assign her suitors?
- 2) What simile do you see on pg. 798?
- 3) How are the suitors breaking the rules of hospitality?
- 4) What two servants promise to fight with Odysseus?
- 5) What will be their reward if Odysseus is successful in the challenge?
- 6) How do the two servants recognize Odysseus?
- 7) What are Odysseus’ instructions for his men? (lines 1164-1173)
- 8) How is the suitor’s comment in line 1184 ironic?
- 9) Whose epithet is “the man skilled in all ways of contending?” (line 1185)
- 10) What is the heroic simile on pg. 802?
- 11) Whose epithet is “crooked-minded?” (line 1198)
- 12) In what ways might Telemachus be the “true son of King Odysseus” as expressed in line 1217?

“Death at the Palace” pgs. 803-805

- 1) Describe Antinous.
- 2) Who is described in this epithet: “the wildest fighter of the islands?” (line 1221)
- 3) Why would Odysseus pray to Apollo in line 1226?
- 4) What simile is on pg. 803?
- 5) Who did Odysseus shoot first?

- 6) Who tried to bargain with Odysseus?
- 7) Who is involved in the fight?
- 8) What sign appeared to the suitors in the hall?
- 9) What similes do you see on pg. 805?

“Odysseus and Penelope” pgs. 806-809

- 1) How does Telemachus “pay” the unfaithful servants?
- 2) Why does Penelope have trouble recognizing Odysseus?
- 3) What simile is on pg. 806?
- 4) Whose epithets are “patient hero” and “greathearted?” (lines 1329 & 1335)
- 5) What simile is on pg. 807?
- 6) How did Athena enhance Odysseus’ appearance after he had bathed?
- 7) What was Penelope and Odysseus’ secret sign?
- 8) Besides Penelope and Odysseus, who was the only other person to have seen this secret sign?
- 9) What epic simile is on page 809?